

*AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS*

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A surface coated phosphor comprising an uncoated sulfide or oxide phosphor and a layer of continuous uniform coating comprising a crystalline rare earth oxide disposed on the uncoated phosphor having a thickness ranging from 1 nm to about 1000 nm, wherein the surface coated phosphor is configured as a coating in a display device.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) The surface coated phosphor of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein said uncoated phosphor is a sulfide phosphor.

4. (Original) The surface coated phosphor of claim 3, wherein said sulfide phosphor is a ZnS based phosphor.

5. (Original) The surface coated phosphor of claim 4, wherein said ZnS based phosphor is selected from the group consisting of ZnS:Cu; ZnS:Cu,Al; (Zn,Cd)S:Ag,Al; and combinations thereof.

6. (Original) The surface coated phosphor of claim 5, wherein said ZnS based phosphor is ZnS:Cu.

7. (Original) The surface coated phosphor of claim 1, wherein said rare earth oxide is  $Y_2O_3$ .

8-36. (Canceled).

37. (Previously Presented) The surface coated phosphor of claim 1, wherein the continuous uniform coating has a thickness of from 1 nm to about 50 nm.

38. (Currently Amended) A surface coated phosphor consisting of an uncoated sulfide or oxide phosphor and a layer of continuous uniform coating comprising a crystalline rare earth oxide disposed on the uncoated phosphor having a thickness ranging from 1 nm to about 1000 nm, wherein the surface coated phosphor is configured as a coating in a display device.

39. (Currently Amended) A surface coated phosphor comprising ~~[[of]]~~ an uncoated sulfide or oxide phosphor and a layer of continuous uniform coating comprising crystalline  $Y_2O_3$  disposed on the uncoated phosphor having a thickness ranging from 1 nm to about 1000 nm, wherein the surface coated phosphor is configured as a coating in a display device.

40. (New) A surface coated phosphor comprising an uncoated sulfide or oxide phosphor and a layer of continuous uniform coating comprising crystalline  $Y_2O_3$  disposed on the uncoated phosphor having a thickness ranging from 1 nm to about 1000 nm, wherein the surface coated phosphor is configured as a coating in a display device, and the layer of continuous uniform coating comprising crystalline  $Y_2O_3$  passivates the surface of the phosphor.

41. (New) A method of increasing the luminescence efficiency of a luminescent sulfide or oxide phosphor comprising providing a layer of continuous uniform coating comprising crystalline  $Y_2O_3$  on the phosphor having a thickness ranging from 1 nm to about 1000 nm.